FBIS DAILY REPORT

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SEDITIOUS MESSAGES REPORTED ON RADIO EXCELSIOR

PY280300 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0055 GMT 28 Oct 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Oct (NA) -- An alleged proclamation calling for a coup, signed by an allegedly seditious military group, and the proliferation of reports on Tuesday, have produced uneasiness in local circles. Even though the reports could not be confirmed, most of them indicate that state-run Radio Excelsior programs may have been interfered with twice.

Radio Excelsior employees admitted that listeners had called them up in the afternoon and told them that the station's regular programs had been interfered with by a subversive proclamation. It was reported that most of the calls were made from the northern area of the federal capital and greater Buenos Aires, although no irregularities were detected at the station.

No official explanation was given at Government House because on Wednesday afternoon, following an Army custom, there are virtually no official activities, and high-ranking officials leave at noon.

Asked by NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS, the leaders of the main parties unanimously dismissed the reports as unimportant, indicating that they were vague and inconsistent and that they were part of a "psychological campaign."

However, it could be learned that high ranking retired Army officers received phone calls in the last 2 days and that the proclamation reportedly beamed today was read to them. It was not possible to ascertain whether the same thing happened with the leaders of the other armed forces branches.

Reports on the proclamation, which indicated that it had been beamed by a private station in Buenos Aires, started circulating on Tuesday night. This morning, reports indicated that the proclamation was beamed through another private station.

It was later learned that both reports were false, but the rumor that Radio Excelsior had been interfered with twice, at 1400 and at 1900, was already circulating. As was said before, the matter could not be either confirmed or denied.

NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS heard three of the messages read to some retired officers over the phone. All of them were signed by a self-styled "Underground Junta of Commanders in Chief." One of the messages demands "the immediate resignation of President Reynaldo Bignone, his administration and all provincial governors."

"The national reorganization movement," the proclamation goes on," is determined to struggle for the fatherland and to achieve progress for our country. Long live the national reorganization movement!"

Another of the alleged proclamations claims that "We want to see the faces of patriots; our conscience can no longer stand the humiliation of laying down arms and letting corrupt people stage their feast." Claiming that they are "tired of begging for patriotism," the members of the supposed "military junta" rebelled against the government, rejecting "the call for general elections."

The third message is addressed to the "comrades of the three armed forces" and it asks for support for the "new deed."

Asked whether interference with radio stations had been detected, the head of the Program Control Division of the Federal Broadcasting Committee (Comfer) declined to provide this kind of information. He said: "Our duty is to control programs and submit reports on any irregularity to our supervisors." In the face of repeated questions from reports, he replied: "We do not provide that kind of information to the press."

ECONOMY MINISTRY REPORTS AGREEMENT WITH IMF

PY271200 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Text] A letter of intent was signed with the IMF for a standby loan. The negotiations, which were somewhat hindered over the weekend, have been successfully concluded according to a very reliable Economy Ministry source. The letter of intent, which was signed by Economy Minister Jorge Wehbe, will be taken to Washington by the IMF delegation, which will leave for Washington at noon.

IMF Delegation Report

PY271819 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Oct (DYN) -- The officials of the IMF delegation who have been negotiating for several weeks with the Argentine Government to establish a standby agreement stated today that they have reached "important agreements" with the local authorities. These agreements will permit the IMF to give financial assistance, they stated.

Walter Robinchek stated that he was not taking any letter of intent signed by the Argentine authorities, and that the document must be forwarded by the local government to Washington.

Delegation Leaves for Brazil

PY271835 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Oct (TELAM) -- Walter Robinchek, chief of the IMF's Western Hemisphere Department, and Christian Brachet, chief of the IMF's River Plate Department, left for Brazil today.

Christian Brachet stated shortly before departing that a preliminary agreement for $1.5 billion in SDR's [Special Drawing Rights] was reached under a standby agreement over a 15-month period beginning on the date of its approval by the IMF board. We expect the IMF Board to approve this agreement in January, Brachet stated.

Brachet denied having contacted leaders of the multiparty group to obtain their approval of the standby loan. "We are technicians and not politicians," Brachet said.

Wehbe Comments

PY272059 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1635 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Oct (TELAM) -- Economy Minister Jorge Wehbe today said regarding the foreign debt that an agreement in principle, which has already been forwarded, has been reached with the IMF. He added that negotiations will now be carried out with creditor banks to obtain a bridge loan in order to go ahead with long term refinancing.

During a conversation with reporters at the conclusion of the cabinet meeting, the minister said that he talked with politicians about this matter and that there was complete consensus and awareness among those consulted on the need to get the IMF credit. Wehbe also denied that there were any problems during the negotiations; there was merely some misinterpretation.

BOLIVIAN DEFENSE MINISTER CONTINUES VISIT

Press Conference

FY270300 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0058 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Oct (NA) -- Argentina has committed itself to "immediately" paying 50 percent of the debt that it has with Bolivia for the purchase of gas, and the other 50 percent will be paid "on a priority basis as soon as possible."

This is established in a joint communique signed by Argentine Defense Minister Julio Martinez Vivot and Bolivian Defense Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado. The contents of the communique were made known this afternoon during a press conference given by the visiting official.

The same agreement establishes that "the foreign debt that Bolivia has contracted with Argentina will be refinanced under terms that are convenient for the two countries."

The document also states that "representative democracy is the most adequate system of government for the political development of the two countries," and at the same time it rejects "every type of terrorism as a method for political action."

Ortiz Mercado made these announcements during a stormy press conference that concluded abruptly when the reporters noted that Col Luis Arce Gomez, a former Bolivian interior minister, was in the room.

Following is the text of the joint communique: "Jose Ortiz Mercado, Bolivian defense minister and special representative of his excellency, President Hernan Siles Zuazo, met in Buenos Aires with Julio J. Martinez Vivot, Argentine defense minister.

"At the conclusion of their meetings, the two ministers are releasing the following:

"1. Argentina will immediately pay 50 percent of the invoices that are pending for the purchase of Bolivian natural gas and the balance will be reduced on a priority basis as soon as possible. This event that is being made under difficult circumstances for Argentina and Bolivia demonstrates the traditional friendship that exists between the two countries.

"2. The foreign debt that Bolivia has contracted with Argentina will be refinanced under terms that are convenient for the two countries.

"3. An economic and technical cooperation agreement supporting the development plan of Hernan Siles Zuazo's constitutional government will be drafted.

"4. They believe that representative democracy is the most adequate system of government for the political development of the two countries.

"5. They reject every type of terrorism as a method of political action, whether it be from the right or the left and whether it be of a national or foreign nature.

"6. They promise to perfect and strengthen Bolivian-Argentine relations."

Before answering the questions of the reporters, Ortiz Mercado made it clear that "these are the only and exclusive motives (of his trip to Argentina) and not those that were speculated on, because my ministry is not charged with those matters," in a clear reference to the situation of the high ranking Bolivian military officers that are in the country. Regarding his country's internal situation, the minister stated that "We have achieved democracy with the struggle and the blood of the people."

Answering a question, Ortiz Mercado indicated that his nation's debt with Argentina amounts to $600 million and that Argentina's commitments with Bolivia amount to $173 million up to 1 November. He then explained that what Bolivia owes Argentina is "an unconditional line of credit granted to the government of Gen Luis Garcia Meza amounting to $250 million for the provision of industrial products and basic foodstuffs."

Answering another question, he rejected the idea that the government headed by Hernan Siles Zuazo is "concerned" over institutional stability. "In no way are we concerned," he maintained, "because we are supported by the majority of the people and by the new institutional armed forces that have come to understand their role in the democratic process."

When asked whether his ministry was going to apply any type off sanction against the military chiefs that participated in the previous government, the minister fell back on the policy outlined by President Siles Zuazo.

"Let it be the armed forces themselves," He stressed, "that do the weeding out, through courts of honor -- down to the rank of lieutenant colonel -- the permanent courts and the Supreme Military Justice Court."

He then rejected the idea that the Italian terrorist, Pierluigi Pagliai, had been a member of the Bolivian Armed Forces, but he did admit that "apparently, in view of the data that is in our hands, he did belong to the security forces."

During the press conference he was repeatedly asked about the situation of Gen Luis Garcia Meza and of Arce Gomez, questions he declined to answer with the argument that "it does not come within the sphere of my ministry."

He explained: "At any rate, the (Argentine) Interior Ministry can request that the Bolivian Foreign Ministry give instructions to the ambassador so that he can appeal to the legal mechanisms of this country for the extradition of these military officers."

The official then held a heated dialogue with Nationalist leader Guillermo Patricio Kelly who asked him if Bolivia was going to pay its foreign debt with the money "obtained from drug trafficking."

Ortiz Mercado said "This is a derogatory question." He added: "We are not going to channel that kind of money to pay the foreign debt."

Kelly replied: "The Argentines are not going to allow it either even if you made an agreement with the military."

The minister responded that "we made an agreement from government of government." Kelly answered: "With a de facto government."

The official said: "This is a very subjective matter which concerns you and I cannot discuss these matters." The press conference then changed to other subjects.

The Bolivian minister made no distinctions about terrorism. He explained that "the Latin American authoritarian regimes came about after terrorist provocations and this terrorism can come either from the left or the right."

In conclusion, he was asked the reasons for the presence of Arce Gomez in the press conference. The minister attributed his presence to the "mere personal curiosity" of the officer.

This question alerted the majority of the journalists to the presence of the former interior minister of the Garcia Meza administration. The journalists then rushed over to Arce Gomez. Since no other questions were asked, Ortiz Mercado decided to leave the hall, but his absence was not noticed until long time after he had left.

Government Apology

PY271404 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0150 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Oct (DYN) -- Persons closely related to Bolivian Defense Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado disclosed that Argentine Defense Minister Julio Martinez Vivot, Foreign Minister Juan Aguirre Lanari and one of President Reynaldo Bignone's aides-de-camp phoned the minister this evening to apologize, on behalf of the Argentine Government, for the incident which took place because of Col Luis Arce Gomez presence at Mercado's press conference held tonight.

The two Argentine ministers and President Reynaldo Bignone's aide-de-camp, on behalf of the president, stated that necessary measures will be taken and apologized for the incident which took place as a consequence of the unexpected presence of former Bolivian Interior Minister Col Luis Arce Gomez at the press conference which was held in the Florida Hall of the Plaza Hotel. Ortiz Mercado received the phone calls in his room shortly after the press conference had ended. During the conference he unsuccessfully tried to get Arce Gomez and other Bolivian officers -- dressed in plainclothes -- who attended the conference, to leave.

Meeting With Foreign Minister

PY271514 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Excerpt] Bolivian Defense Minister Mercado paid a visit yesterday to Argentina Foreign Minister Aguirre Lanari. The chief of San Martin Palace's press department reported that Mercado's visit to Aguirre Lanari was strictly protocol. The San Martin Palace official made a point of stating that neither reducing the number of personnel at the Argentine Embassy in La Paz nor removing Bolivian military attaches from Buenos Aires, such as Colonel Arce Gomez, were discussed during the meeting.

III CORPS DENIES BOLIVIAN OFFICERS WITHIN UNIT

PY271355 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Text] The II Corps has denied the presence of Bolivian military officers within that unit. Here is the text of the communique that the III Corps has released in this regard: The III Corps headquarters hereby terms unfounded and denies some press reports made to the media to the effect that Bolivian officers are staying at this large military unit as guests or under any other related status.

FOREIGN MINISTER TO LEAVE FOR UN 28 OCTOBER

PY271755 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Report from Government House]

[Excerpt] In keeping with a decree issued by the executive branch, Argentine Foreign Minister Juan Ramon Aguirre Lanari will leave for New York tomorrow heading the Argentine delegation that will participate in the 37th UN General Assembly session. The Latin American draft resolution on the Malvinas issue will be discussed during the UN General Assembly session.

The following persons will travel to New York along with Foreign Minister Aguirre Lanari: Ambassador Gustavo Figueroa, [chief adviser of the Foreign Ministry]; (Juan Carlos Recader), Foreign Ministry secretary, and Oscar Alberto Fernandez Suarez, Foreign Ministry adviser.

NAVY HEADQUARTERS PUNISHES EDITOR OF BUSQUEDA

PY272052 Paris AFP in Spanish 0152 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Oct (AFP) -- The director and editorial writer of the Argentine monthly BUSQUEDA, Capt Horacio Salduna, has been punished by Navy headquarters with a 10-day arrest for having written on certain topics in the latest issue, a magazine spokesman reported tonight. Navy sources denied having any knowledge of the sanction.

According to the report, Salduna has been punished for two articles published in the issue that has a photograph of the face of the chief of state, Gen Reynaldo Bignone, on the cover with the phrase "Don't cry for me, Argentina" underneath it. One of the articles refers to the incident involving the former commander of the Southern Naval Area, Vice Adm Horacio Zaratiegui, who questioned the force's leadership during the Malvinas war. The second article analyzes the appearance of the military in institutional activities since 1930.

CGT-BRASIL CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC POLICY

PY272335 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 27 Oct 82 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- The General Confederation of Labour (CGT-Brasil) yesterday called for the clarification of the situation of disappeared people, saying the military government "must take this action because of the responsibility it has in the matter."

The labour group also criticized negotiations over the foreign debt with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), rejected the government's proposed accord with civilians, condemned the presence of Bolivian military men in Argentina and announced that it will take "direct action" if it does not receive a satisfactory response to its economic demands by the middle of November.

CGT-Brasil President Saul Ubaldini said his organization is not opposed to the reported 75.6 percent wage hike granted to military personnel, "provided that workers get the same increase, because we are human beings as well." Ubaldini spoke at a press conference yesterday at which the union released a document criticizing the government's social and economic policies and a special report on the foreign debt.

"The foreign debt shall not be paid at the cost of more recession and lower income for the working class," the special CGT document states. It also proposes a "complete re-rethinking of the profile of the debt," to extend obligations coming due in the next two years to a ten-year term.

At the press conference, the CGT said the finding of unmarked graves at the Grand Bourg cemetery "demonstrates the need to clear up the situation of the disappeared."

HOLMBERG RELATIVE FREED AFTER 20-DAY ARREST

PY272331 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 27 Oct 82 p 11

[Text] (DYN) -- Retired Commodore Juan Jose Guiraldes went home yesterday after serving a 20-day sentence ordered by Air Force Commander-in-Chief Augusto Hughes for publishing a letter in which he complained about censorship on state television. Guiraldes, a brother-in-law of murdered diplomat Elena Holmberg, said yesterday "I do not violate the laws of the nation," but declined further comment on his arrest. The officer, who says a reference to Holmberg was censored out of a Channel 7 talk show he had been invited to, spent the 20 days' arrest incomunicado in an Air Force regional servicing plant in Quilmes.

IGLESIAS ROUCO COMMENTARY ON FOREIGN POLICY

PY272207 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Oct 82 pp 1, 4

[J. Iglesias Rouco commentary: "Drifting"]

[Text] The internal process of generalized instability and the lack of accord or basic consensus among the major national sectors continue to weaken the so-called external front and they may soon lead Argentina into a blind alley. Despite the shameful Malvinas defeat, neither government nor parties seem to have realized the extreme weakness of the Argentine position in that area, and they still believe they can play the game of the policy of fluctuation and ambiguity that has led the country to disaster.

Unfortunately, the situation can be summarized as follows:

1. Malvinas -- The visit paid by Mr Nott to the islands and the British decision to place the territory under the authority of the Armed Forces Staff reveal the British intention to build a major military base on the islands. More than 4,000 ground troops (among them some 1,000 specialized commandos) have already been stationed on the islands, supported by highly sophisticated electronic devices for aircraft and ship detection and control and by a major air force unit, which was joined by a least one Phantom squadron in the last few days. If such a base is actually built, it will in the long term undoubtedly reduce to nothing, for all practical purposes, Argentina's strategic position in the South Atlantic and even in regard to the Antarctic. But, looking at the problem from the standpoint of its short-term repercussions, it is good to wonder why Great Britain, in addition to spending hundreds of millions of dollars on the "defense" of the islands -- and at a time when everybody knows that Argentina is not able to launch another attack -- has just started what could be regarded as an almost systematic military harassment of Argentina's air and sea transportation in the area. This action is to be added to Great Britain's undenied intention to call for bids for the development of fishing and perhaps oil resources within the 200-mile exclusion zone around the Malvinas.

2. Chile -- In connection with the above, several political and diplomatic circles have mentioned the possibility that the Chilean regime headed by Pinochet may deliberately create sources of tension on the Argentine-Chilean border, with the purpose of "justifying" a blitzkrieg in Patagonia during which Chileans would count on British support. The idea is not that absurd, above all if one bears in mind that such a military adventure -- and its support -- would give Pinochet the chance for a kind of compensation for the serious economic crisis that is destabilizing his government. As far as we know, after the fall of Puerto Argentino, the staff of at least one of Argentina's military branches has seriously started analyzing that possibility.

3. Beagle -- The Argentine decision to extend the Rome talks for 1 year by means of the partial withdrawal of the denouncement of the 1972 treaty clearly favors any plans Pinochet may have in connection with the above purpose, since it keeps alive a conflict which he could eventually use to "explain" any Chilean military reaction to the world.

4. Claims at the United nations -- Neither does the Argentine initiative at the United Nations serve to strength its international position and less so to prevent the Anglo-Chilean axis, if it exists. Washington has objected to parts of the document that have been submitted by Argentina, with the nominal support of Latin America, and it has even tried to obtain from Buenos Aires certain modifications in the text in order to give a favorable vote for a negotiating basis between Argentina and Great Britain. The disagreements on the topic within the regime have prevented any great progress. Therefore, what will most probably happen is that the United States will abstain, a position that will surely be shared by a large part of the EEC. Anyway, even if the United Nations did order negotiations, London would most probably not comply. Mrs Thatcher has said that she will only deal with Argentina when it has a democratic government, but her war preparations on the islands demonstrate that even if this is the case, her dealings will contain the same delaying tactics that have been used in years gone by. Therefore, one cannot understand what Buenos Aires is seeking at the United Nations, especially by adopting a position that definitely seems to be a return to a position very similar to the one adopted between 1965 to 1980, a position which, at the same time, blocks the patching up of relations with the United States and NATO.

5. Latin America -- The same can be said for Buenos Aires' attitude in the OAS and in the field of Latin American bilateral relations, which are gripped in a more less absolute state of paralysis. This, of course, has again put distance between Argentina and its Latin American "champions" of its cause, such as Peru and Venezuela, and this without coming any closer to the United States. Former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, one of the most fervent supporters of the "recovery of the Malvinas for Latin America," some days ago said some pretty derogatory words about Buenos Aires on this point. For example: What would happen now if a conflict broke out between Argentina and Chile, with the direct or indirect intervention of Great Britain? Could Buenos Aires count on Latin American solidarity, above and beyond simple declarations of principles? Another continental politician, almost as important as Andres Perez, some days ago gave us the following answer: "No. On the contrary, its internal political chaos and its international isolation would open the way for the loss of territory of a state that is not attached to a strategic world structure, but which is capable of manufacturing the atom bomb and dragging many OAS members into diplomatic disputes with the United States over claims that afterward are suddenly left more or less to chance or which are dealt with by an abrupt change of policy."

6. The United States -- The State Department has presumably delayed the drafting of a defined policy regarding Argentina until the announced "democratic institutionalization" is implemented. At this time it does not know who to speak to in Argentina. Thus, U.S. diplomacy presumably has not been able to give definition to the projects which, according to our sources, the Pentagon is handling for the defense of the South Atlantic and in which, in its belief, South Africa, Brazil and Argentina, but not Chile, should participate.

7. Bolivia -- At the same time, the State Department is not hiding its concern over the alleged protection which Buenos Aires is reportedly giving to members of the former Bolivian military regime involved in international drug trafficking. An obscure character, Roberto Suarez, not very well known and considered to be the most important drug trafficeker in the world, has reportedly travelled recently to Argentina; however, it is not known if he is still in the country. Washington is afraid that the Bolivian servicemen and civilians involved in this matter may create in Buenos Aires a new front of disturbances -- including political disturbances -- for the entire southern cone. During the meeting which U.S. Ambassador Schlaudeman held with the president, he reportedly discussed this matter after getting a message from Reagan with instructions in this regard.

8. European Community -- Last week, an official of the EEC Executive Committee visited Buenos Aires to study here the possibilities of rebuilding EEC relations with Argentina. Other officials of the Brussels "club" also met with Argentine diplomats and ministers in La Paz and other Latin American capitals. After several contacts with the Foreign Ministry, the official sent to Buenos Aires was not very optimistic about a full economic and political agreement in view of the resistance of important local sectors to formally recognize the end of hostilities with Great Britain demanded by the EEC. As far as we know, General Bignone and Aguirre Lanari are willing to take this step and may have everything ready for the announcement immediately before or after the UN debate. But the resistance and contradictions which have already taken place within the government around this matter do not foreshadow a very fluid dialogue with Western Europe even if all links between Brussels and Buenos Aires are reestablished.

9. IMF -- The "standby" agreement already reached with the IMF is strictly of a temporary or emergency nature and does not include a fiscal or monetary program leading to a solution of the foreign debt problem. In this field as in all the others, the policy of those who are only aiming at postponing solutions has prevailed, perhaps because they do not now want to assume the responsibility which falls under their jurisdiction.

This is approximately the panorama of our foreign front. However, it should be pointed out that the hesitations and contradictions observed come not only from the regime but also from the political parties whose ambiguity and vacillation have been notorious in view of the questions they have been asked, particularly regarding the Beagle and the IMF. In conclusion, by avoiding commitments they are increasingly compromising the Argentine future in the community of civilized nations.

OAS' MCCOMIE MEETS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

PY281250 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 28 Oct 82

[Text] The OAS Deputy Secretary General has met with the Argentine foreign minister. Val T. McComie stated that during his meeting with Foreign Minister Aguirre Lanari he discussed some of the subjects that will be dealt with at UN headquarters, such as the Malvinas issue, which will also be discussed during the UN General Assembly session.

McComie added: Mr Aguirre Lanari gave to me some background information on the southern archipelagos. This made me understand the problem very well and its will help me to perform more efficiently as the OAS deputy secretary general.

McComie also stated that the most important thing to find out is what Argentina is seeking, which, in his opinion, is to attain a resumption of relations. Therefore, he said, we must find out what the countries can do in this regard.

PRESIDENT SILES ZUAZO DISCUSSES ECONOMY, CREDITS

PY280220 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 2330 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Text] The economic plan to be approved by the constitutional government will be revealed 5 November through a presidential speech. In general terms, the plan includes programs for increasing production and salary matters. This announcement was made by President Siles Zuazo during an informal meeting with national journalists.

In a cordial atmosphere, President Siles Zuazo referred to various aspects of his government's activities. Regarding the economic plan, he said that the national economic policy includes studies of the economic problems of the low income sectors of the country. The president said that the economic problems and the difficulties in resolving them are so great that to overcome this situation it will be necessary to make new sacrifices. He categorically stated that his government would not tolerate demagogy. The president added that he expects understanding, because we must all take part in this sacrifice.

Siles Zuazo said that nothing is confidential and that the guidelines of the new economic model will be revealed because the solutions will serve as the basis for promoting an economic and social development free of dependence.

Regarding the request by mineworkers for a minimum flexible salary scale, the president said that his government is constantly maintaining contacts with the labor sectors and that all sectors will be consulted to find solutions. He added that this is a government which represents the national majority. He said that the economic situation is 10 times worse than the situation in 1956, the year when he became president for the first time. He added that he has the same faith he had in 1956 that the Bolivian people will understand that the situation will be overcome.

The international financial cooperation for the government of Siles Zuazo is becoming real with a $60 million credit from Argentina and goods worth $30 million from Peru. Credits are also going to be obtained from the United States, the Andean Group and the EEC, according to the announcement made by the president.

Siles Zuazo said that the friendly countries have shown their solidarity and understanding for the Bolivian situation after the military coup when they learned about the real situation the country was confronting, both at the political and economic level.

The president praised the gesture of Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry and his government. He said that Bolivia will get goods worth $30 million which will be used to supply the mining sectors.

Siles Zuazo also mentioned the activities of Defense Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado in Argentina who reached an agreement for a $60 million credit. The president said that there are also good prospects for getting credit in the next few weeks from the United States, the Andean Group and the EEC.

Asked about Bolivian relations with the IMF, Siles Zuazo said that these relations already existed but that they will be strengthened to design programs for the benefit of the country.

ARCE GOMEZ ADMITS CREATING PARAMILITARY GROUPS

PY271358 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2154 GMT 26 Oct 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Oct (DYN) -- Today former Bolivian Interior Minister Col Luis Arce Gomez admitted having organized paramilitary groups in his country and denied any participation in drug trafficking in statements he made at the end of a press conference by Bolivian Defense Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado, which he attended unexpectedly.

Arce Gomez said that he had learned today that his appointment as military attache of the Bolivian Embassy had been cancelled. Minister Ortiz Mercado, on his part, reckoned that Arce Gomez had attended the conference accompanied by a dozen Bolivian officers out of "sheer curiosity."

Arce Gomez said that he did not know whether he would return to Bolivia in the next few days and that he did not know the Italian terrorists who had cooperated with the paramilitary groups which he had created, although he admitted that "many foreigners, among them many Argentines" formed part of the groups.

DEPUTIES QUESTION INTERIOR MINISTER'S ACTIONS

PY232126 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Oct 82

[Text] Yesterday the Chamber of Deputies asked the interior minister to report in writing on the causes which motivated his takeover of the National Antidrug Council. The note read:

The interior minister is hereby asked to report, in writing and as soon as possible, to the honorable Chamber of Deputies on the takeover in the offices of the National Antidrug Council carried out by plainclothesmen who were carrying instructions from their superiors. The minister is also asked to report on the measures which have been taken to clarify the events, establish responsibilities and punish acts which constitute usurping of functions and illegal seizure of documents.

DEPUTY COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH PRC, CUBA

PY261547 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Oct 82

[Text] Guillermo Richter, Revolutionary Front of the Left [FRI] deputy for Beni, has given the arguments justifying the need for Bolivia to establish diplomatic and trade relations with the Cuban Government and the PRC. He explained that the draft resolution to that effect, approved by the Chamber of Deputies last Friday, is to the benefit of the Bolivian people and government because of the advantages which normal relations, particularly with the PRC, would give to the country.

[Begin Richter recording] It is important to keep in mind that China is a country of importance for the supply and marketing of some highly important minerals whose commercial value necessarily depends on the forming of a strong front which guarantees a certain price stability on the world market.

In addition, I should tell you that the PRC has officially and on many occasions expressed its strong solidarity with the maritime claims of the Bolivian people. I believe that we must not ignore the existence of 1 billion people who are a potentially a very important market for Bolivian mining products.

Furthermore, I consider the historical reality of the Republic of Cuba to be a reason why the establishment of relations would be highly favorable for all Bolivians. [end recording]

The newsmen asked the deputy of the FRI, a coalition which is part of the National Revolutionary Movement Alliance, about what would happen with regard to the projects in which Bolivia and Nationalist China are both involved, and how the severance of relations between La Paz and Taiwan would affect the country. Guillermo Richter explained: [Begin recording] The Bolivian legislative branch believes that it is indispensable to establish diplomatic, commercial and cultural relations with a country as large as the PRC. The ROC, the misnamed Republic of China, is a republic whose government has no importance in the [word indistinct] determination [words indistinct] an independent position in the field of foreign relations. [end recording]

ISRAELI CLUB ATTACKED IN COCHABAMBA CITY

PY271756 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 20 Oct 82 p 5

[Text] Cochabamba, 19 Oct (PRESENCIA) -- Unidentified persons threw a Molotov cocktail bomb against the Israeli club in this city, without causing any casualties. According to some sources, the attack took place early Monday morning. The bomb, thrown by persons who escaped in an automobile, caused property damage but no casualties. It is believed that the attack was in condemnation of the events in Beirut, because several businessmen also received anonymous threats.

The Israeli club is located in Valdivieso Street in La Paz, very near the army's National School of Arms, in the residential center of the city. Police officials have reported that they are making preliminary investigations, and that the Molotov cocktail was homemade. The bomb caused a fire in the hall and bar of the social club.

PEASANTS ATTACK AGRARIAN REFORM OFFICE

PY271612 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Excerpts] Peasants of the Tupac Katari Confederation, led by Genaro Flores, occupied the offices of the National Agrarian Reform Council and some offices of the Peasant Affairs Ministry located at Camacho Avenue in this city yesterday. Several officials were attacked by angry peasants, and employees of the two institutions could not control these actions. The attackers accused the employees of being members of irregular armed groups which caused [words indistinct] during the military coup of 17 July 1980.

The peasants who numbered about 50 caused serious problems, because the police did not arrive in time. Several of those attacked suffered bruises and contusions.

When Peasant Affairs Minister Zenon Barrientos was notified about the events, he urged the angry peasants to refrain from their attitude and promised to dismiss from their posts those who have been accused of being members of those irregular armed groups.

Peasant Affairs Under Secretary (Reynaldo Mercado), when asked by Radio Panamericana about the serious incidents at the National Agrarian Reform Council and the offices of the ministry, said that no mass dismissals are taking place at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Peasant Affairs, because those who have had nothing to do with former regimes are guaranteed in their posts,he said: [Begin recording] Well, the truth is that some comrades, probably enraged at having seen a few officials who were involved in the massacre of the people, wanted to point out to this ministry that it should proceed with the matters much faster, but this ministry is characterized by its broadmindedness. We are not making any mass dismissals. We are studying the cases of all the employees, case by case, in order to see what steps we are going to take. Basically we are going to respect the law. This ministry gives guarantees to all the officials who have nothing to do with the past. [end recording]

OFFICIALS EXPECT ARGENTINE NATURAL GAS PAYMENTS

PY251343 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Oct 82

[Text] Spokesmen for the Mines and Hydrocarbons Ministry report that Argentina (?has resumed) payments on the debt it owes to Bolivia from natural gas purchases and that Argentina's (Yacimob) [expansion unknown] company will make a $12 million payment [words indistinct].

FINANCE MINISTER TERMS GATT 'INEFFECTIVE'

PY272044 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Oct 82 p 25

[Excerpt] Brasilia -- After talking yesterday for 1 hour and 15 minutes with GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel, Industry and Commerce Minister Camilo Penna harshly criticized that institution which oversees international trade. He called it ineffective in trade disputes caused by the rigid protectionism practiced by industrialized countries against developing nations. He repudiated the mission, which the United States wants to attribute to this institution, of regulating investments and service exchange. Penna proposed changing its internal structure in order to strengthen it, to allow equal rights for all countries. This is the top priority before giving the organization any expanded responsibility.

The industry and commerce minister said "GATT should not be given new responsibilities before GATT itself is changed." He added that his first suggestion to Dunkel, as a way of allowing poor countries to increase their exports, was the creation of a mechanism of protection against cutthroat competition affecting products such as sugar and steel, the prices of which are "below the critical level" on the international market due to the protectionism of the industrialized countries. In his opinion, "This will make a difference which will certainly allow the indebted countries to obtain, through trade, the currency to meet their financial obligations."

Penna said he does not believe the next GATT meeting to take place in Geneva next month will mark the direct confrontation between the rich and poor countries, due to the impossibility of solving the controversies within the "close field of action" of the institution. According to the minister, the world is becoming a victim of "terrible" nonsense: "All countries are being afflicted by the concern of imposing limitations on growth, while the correct idea should be for all countries to be concerned with expanding the limits, the opportunities." The developed countries must understand that the opportunities for economic growth are in the developing countries, the minister stated.

"It is unacceptable," he stated, "for countries with a $20 per hour salary to prevent their domestic consumers from benefiting from products coming from countries that produce them at a much lower salary." The awareness of this fact ("which I consider simple") will result in new trade rules which in practice are already prevailing. For this reason, he considered a confrontation between poor and rich countries unlikely: "Instead of confrontation, I believe an understanding will be reached," he stated.

He also said the Brazilian position will be firm in defense of a reorganization of GATT before conferring new responsibilities on it.

OPPOSITION CANDIDATE ON MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

PY272155 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 26 Oct p 1

[Text] Commenting on the navy and air ministers' statements about the possible victory of opposition candidates in the next elections, [Workers Democratic Party candidate for governor of Rio de Janeiro] Leonel Brizola said that whatever the intentions of the ministers and of the comments published by newspapers, nothing will make us abandon our course of moderation and strength in connection with the just aspirations of our people.

Brizola said he has never sought revenge. Concerning demagogy, he said it involves "an admonition particularly applying to the candidate supported by the federal government, since he started by promising housing, food, and jobs; he only missed laundry."

PLANNING MINISTER ON BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

PY272045 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Oct 82 p 1

[By correspondent Assis Mendonca]

[Text] Frankfurt -- Planning Minister Delfin Neto has revealed that Brazil has already secured the resources to even up this year's balance of payments. Last month Brazil still needed $3.6 billion in credits, but now the minister sees "no more difficulties to close the year" with the resources guaranteed by international financial institutions. In Frankfurt Neto rejected criticism from FRG sectors that Brazil is planning large projects with the sole purpose of securing resources on the international market. He explained that all Brazilian projects financed by foreign banks are fulfilled to the letter and presented to the financers.

NATIONAL MONETARY COUNCIL APPROVES 1983 PLAN

PY270229 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Oct 82, p 20

[Text] Brasilia -- An $8 billion trade balance surplus with exports amounting to $26 billion and imports to $18 billion, a $5 billion deficit in current accounts, the need to find $8 billion in foreign loans and the payment of $8.8 billion in interest rates, are the government's goals for 1984 and they are included in the document, which outlines the external sector's program for 1983, that was approved yesterday by the National Monetary Council (CMN).

The goals for next year that are outlined in the document practically confirm prior information released by Finance Minister Ernane Galveas, with one exception: the deficit in current accounts. Instead of $8.5 billion, it has been set at $6.9 billion, in view of the current trend of interest rates on the international market.

The government hopes to achieve in 1983, within a policy of reducing the external dependency of Brazil's economy, a $6 billion surplus in its trade balance, with exports amounting to $23 billion and imports amounting to $17 billion, including cuts of $1.1 billion in the purchase of oil, $1 billion in the purchase of equipment for state enterprises and $500 million in private sector imports.

The gross outlay, including interest, in 1983 will amount to $10.4 billion, while revenue will amount to $1.3 billion, thus generating a net interest burden of $9.1 billion. Amortizations will amount to $7.2 billion and the deficit in the service account will be $12.9 billion, against the $14.5 billion that had been predicted. Loans will amount to $10.6 billion, against the $17 billion estimated for this year. Direct investment in the country will amount to $1.5 billion next year, thus maintaining the same estimate for 1982. The gross external debt will amount to $78.6 billion, against $72.2 billion for this year.

The estimates for 1983 take into account that the total of necessary foreign resources for financing the deficit in current accounts -- in 1983 estimated at $6.9 billion and amortizations amounting to $7.2 billion -- will amount to $4.1 billion, of which $1.5 billion will be in risk capital.

"Suppliers" [last word in English], international organizations and government agencies will supply $2 billion; and, finally, $10.6 will be in the form of monetary loans.

The relative participation of loans to Brazil in the "portfolios" of international banks will be significantly reduced during the next few years, the document adds.

JORNAL DO BRASIL ON UPCOMING ELECTIONS

PY271814 Rio De Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 24 Oct 82 p 2

[From Castello's column: "When the Moderates Speak Out"]

[Excerpts] Since Brig Delio Jardim de Matos is a well-known liberal and Maximiano da Fonseca a moderate, it seems right to deduce that the speeches they made on Aviator's Day should be regarded as a sign that there are problems, at least in the air. When liberals and moderates use the language of hardliners it is because they do not want the latter to talk.

This stronger superficial tremor or those signals of turbulence in the atmosphere represent a warning to politicians that the political opening and the "return to freedom" are still subject to a pattern of behavior which would be broken, for example, with the election of Leonel Brizola as Rio de Janeiro state governor. President Figueiredo does not believe so and it is quite possible that the three military ministers and commanders who support the president's policy agree with him. However, the "honest but radical revolutionary groups" [1964 revolutionary groups] who find it difficult to accept democracy, in which the law establishes the norms and justice states whether they have been obeyed or violated, must persevere.

On the same day that Brigadier Jardim de Matos and Admiral da Fonseca spoke, civilian Minister Joao Camilo Pena drew his colleagues' attention to a fact he considered serious: the possibility that the opposition candidates be simultaneously elected governors of Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Minas Gerais states. Today this hypothesis quite possibly is reality and the government and system must start to accept it in order to assimilate it if they intend to move on to a democratic regime.

Leonel Brizola has become a favorite candidate in Rio with a government plan that is not subversive but social democratic. According to the polls, Franco Montoro is a favorite in Sao Paulo and in Minas. Despite the statistics, there is a growing feeling that Tancredo Neve's popularity is increasing irreversibly.

The government was aware of the risks it was running by calling direct elections, but during the past few months official optimism has been maintained based on a survey carried out by the government itself or by specialized agencies which states that Minister Mario Andreazza, who heads one of these probing mechanisms, has predicted the victory of the Social Democratic Party (PDS) in 17 states. The states that represent the center of Industry and Commerce Minister Pena's concern are probably not included in the 17 states. The government now has no means of telling the electorate who may and who may not win the elections. All that remains for it to do is to say who may or may not take office, but for President Figueiredo this is simply a foolish question.

OFFICIALS COMMENT ON WEAPONS SALE TO IRAQ

PY280125 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Text] In Macapa, capital of the Territory of Amapa, the special land affairs minister and secretary general of the National Security Council, Danilo Venturini, spoke to EBN [Brazilian News Enterprise] about the shipment of 140 tons of arms loaded onto an Iraqi Air Force Ilyushin-76 at the Sao Jose dos Campos airport.

He asserted that Avibras [presumably Brazilian Aviation Enterprise] is only complying with its commitment of selling arms to Iraq and that dealings have been going on between the two countries for approximately 2 years now.

Planalto Palace spokesman Carlos Atila considers that the sale of arms to Iraq is a routine matter and he asserted that the government has not commented on the matter because Brazil is a good salesman and it prefers not to announce such things.

The sale of military equipment has to be discreet. That is the basic and essential condition in order to make a good deal, Atila said. According to Atila, this is a type of deal, such as others that are being carried out, that is not revealed, because the country has a good name as a good salesman.

SAO PAULO TO HAVE MORE THAN TWO NUCLEAR PLANTS

PY262143 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 16 Oct 82 p 17

[Excerpts] Peruibe, Sao Paulo -- Nuclebras Director-Superintendent Gen Jose Pinto de Araujo Rabelo confirmed yesterday that the nuclear complex to be built in the Peruibe and Iguape regions, on the southern coast of Sao Paulo, will consist of more than two nuclear plants, but he did not specify how many. The construction of Iguape-1 and Iguape-2 will begin by the end of 1983. Bids for infrastructure construction will be awarded before this year is out.

In a ceremony held yesterday at the Gloria Hotel in Peruibe, Nuclebras signed an agreement with the local municipality for the investment of 70 million cruzeiros. These resources will be used in four infrastructure projects on the plants' site, projects that will be completed in 180 days.

The infrastructure projects are the construction of both a municipal marketplace and a bus terminal, an embankment along Ubatuba Creek, and an embankment along and dredging of the Preto River.

Work on the nuclear plants will be at its peak in 1986-88. Iguape-1 and Iguape-2 will each have 1,245 mw capacity, and will supply the demand of electricity in the southeast region, mainly in Sao Paulo, beginning in 1990.

PAPER REPORTS DEVELOPMENT OF MISSILE PROJECTS

PY270010 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Oct 82 p 37

[Excerpt] Sao Jose dos Campos, Sao Paulo (GLOBO) -- Within the next 6 years, Brazil will develop a self-guided missile, with technology quite similar to that of the "Exocet." The missile, to be used by the Navy in antiaircraft operations, will carry microcomputers and direction detection radar. If no financial problems arise, the first tests will be carried out in 6 years, based on the present stage of development of the technology of the air-to-air "Piranha" missile.

The military sources who reported on the above project have also indicated that the first version of the "Piranha," which will be guided by infrared sensors, will be used by the Army and may undergo its first tests in 3 years. The technology has been developed by the Space Activities Institute, an agency linked to the Aerospace Technology Center. The missile will be tested by the Air Force and produced by the DF Vasconcelos plant of Sao Paulo.

The Armed Forces Staff took over the coordination of the research and development of the missile in August; it granted 300 million cruzeiros to the Aerospace Center in order to continue with the project, which had been stalled for more than 1 year.

Approximately 90 percent of the "Piranha" will be manufactured in Brazil, while only some electronic parts, sensors and gyroscopes, will be imported. Infrared sensors detect the heat of the turbines of target planes, thus guiding the missile. According to simulation tests run by computers, missile efficiency is 99 percent. This rating is identical to that of other weapons like U.S. "Sidewinders," French "Matras" and Israeli "Shafirs."

According to the sources, the Armed Forces Staff is coordinating the research activities related to the "Piranha," as well as the technology which is being developed in other centers and which is likely to be used for the missile. Thus, the Armed Forces Staff is coordinating the research under way at the Army Technological Center, at the Navy Research Center and at the Aerospace Technology Center, as well as the projects requested by the air, navy and army ministries. Technology is already being transferred to DF Vasconcelos, which will provide the first missiles to the Air Force in 6 years. By that time the cost of the missile will be approximately $12 million, which amounts to some 3 billion cruzeiros at current prices.

No exact figures have been estimated yet for the resources needed for the missiles, of the same catergory of the "Piranha," to be used by the Army and Navy.

LAW OF THE SEA TO BE SIGNED WITH RESERVATIONS

PY271142 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 24 Oct 82 p 26

[Excerpt] Brasilia -- During an interview granted yesterday by Navy Minister Adm Maximiano da Fonseca, he stated that even though Brazil has reservations on "certain terms" that are contained in the document of the Law of the Sea approved on 30 April 1982, Brazil intends to sign it on 30 December 1982 and it will finally reduce its territorial sea from 200 nautical miles to 12 miles, with an exclusive economic zone of 188 miles and a legal continental shelf of 350 miles.

"Truly, this change of position provides Brazil with a much better advantage," the minister said, "because Brazil was able to achieve in an international conference, negotiating together with the Group of 77, a resolution regarding the protection of the preliminary investments that have been made by the multinational enterprises, even though it had to grant an additional concession."

Through this resolution, Brazil is considered a member of the group of developing countries and up to 1 January 1985 it must prove that it has invested $30 million in maritime exploration. This, according to the admiral, is not a problem, "because the navy has so far invested $27 million in marine scientific research."

Seen as a very highly controversial instrument that will finally have to be approved by congress, the resulting document of the Third Conference on the Law of the Sea will be signed by Brazil. Even so, it will do so with an "interpretative formal declaration on certain substantive topics with the purpose of guarding its rights and interests." Maximiano said.

PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES ENDING OF STATE OF EMERGENCY

PA280048 Quito Domestic Service in Spanish 0001 GMT 28 Oct 82

[Statement to the nation by President Oswaldo Hurtado, from the Presidential Palace in Quito -- live]

[Text] I would like to announce that tonight I am going to sign the decree ending the state of emergency, thereby reestablishing the enforcement of all freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, although in reality -- and in spite of the use of exceptional measures -- these freedoms had never ceased to exist.

I would also like to announce that, as the government announced to the public yesterday, the prices of fuel are going to be revised. Beginning at 0600 on Friday, the price of 1 gallon of regular gasoline will be 20 sucres, that of special gasoline will be 30 sucres and that of premium gasoline will be 40 sucres. In this manner the government is demonstrating its acceptance of viewpoints expressed by political and labor leaders and by the public in general, and its receptiveness toward diverse observations made by important sectors of the Ecuadorean people.

I hope that these decisions will help to pacify the country and that beginning tomorrow all Ecuadoreans will return to their daily work for the benefit of the fatherland and the people and to consolidate the democratic system.

I thank you newsmen for coming here to listen to this unscheduled and impromptu statement. I know that through you this good news will soon reach the ears of the Ecuadorean people. Thank you.

GOVERNMENT LIFTS SUSPENSION OF RADIO STATIONS

PA280127 Paris AFP in Spanish 2258 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Text] Quito, 27 Oct (AFP) -- Today the Ecuadorean Government lifted the temporary suspension of two radio stations that were penalized last week for violating provisions of the radio and television broadcasting law.

The Directorate of Frequencies, an organization that belongs to the Ecuadorean Institute of Telecommunications announced the decision to the suspended radio stations "Radio Noticia" of Quito and "Centenario" of Guayaquil, which had been given an 8-day suspension effective last Friday.

Government Minister Galo Garcia explained that during the acts of violence last week, the radio stations called for the "violation of the constitutional order." Several labor organizations and the parliament asked the government to lift the sanctions. These requests have been heeded.

HURTADO CALLS FOR HARD WORK TO OVERCOME CRISIS

PA272330 Paris AFP in Spanish 2000 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Text] Quito, 27 Oct (AFP) -- Ecuadorean President Oswaldo Hurtado today issued an appeal to the people to end the strikes and stoppages in the country, and he urged them to "to work tirelessly" to overcome what he termed "the worst economic crisis of the past 50 years."

The president, who delivered a speech on the occasion of Ecuadorean Armed Forces Day, said that the solutions to this crisis "are not easy" and asked for the cooperation of all the people. He spoke in the presence of cabinet ministers and military leaders.

Hurtado's government has been affected in the past weeks by protest demonstrations against the recently adopted economic measures designed to halt the internal deficit and allow the amortization of the foreign debt in short term.

The president attributed the causes of the economic crisis to foreign factors. He noted that, concerned with the consequences of the measures it had adopted, the government had sent a draft salary increase bill to the parliament, which was approved last Tuesday.

Hurtado affirmed that Ecuador has been "an oasis of peace" in strife-torn Latin America, and that it is his government's intention to exhaust all means to preserve the liberty and security of the citizens. He said that in view of the situation, he saw the "need" to resort to the "extraordinary" powers invested in him as chief of state "to guarantee the existing democratic system and to prevent violence and terrorism."

FUT CALLS FOR INDEFINITE STRIKE BEGINNING 8 NOV

PA280251 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0230 GMT 28 Oct 82

[Text] Quito, 27 Oct (EFE) -- The United Workers Front (FUT) of Ecuador today decided to call an "indefinite" general strike beginning 8 November, to continue until the series of economic measures adopted by the government are revoked. The "FUT," which groups the three leading labor federations of Ecuador and has 300,000 members, in the past 2 months has staged two "preventive" strikes to protest the government's economic policy and request wage raises.

The "FUT" announced the call to strike shortly after President Oswaldo Hurtado lifted the state of emergency imposed last Wednesday to halt the wave of social unrest sparked by his economic program, which established an increase in the prices of gas -- partially reduced today -- and wheat, in addition to imposing new taxes.

More on FUT Strike Call

PA280357 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 0315 GMT 28 Oct 82

[Text] The national convention of the United Workers Front, FUT, has unanimously decided to call an indefinite general strike beginning on Monday, 8 November. The national leaders came to Quito and began their meeting Wednesday afternoon. During the meeting, Jose Chavez, the current president of the FUT, explained: [Begin recording] Along with the decision to hold the people's general strike on Thursday of last week, the [previous] convention also decided that if the president of the republic did not heed our demands to repeal the economic measures and grant the FUT's nine points, an indefinite people's general strike should be prepared.

The national directorate, however, does not have the authority within the FUT to make such a decision, and so proceeded to summon this national convention. We would like, within a popular consensus of representatives of the people, to make the wisest decisions at this convention. [end recording]

The FUT will begin its indefinite general strike on Monday, 8 November. It claims that this is the only way it can demand that the Hurtado administration repeal the recent economic measures, mainly the increase in the prices of gasoline and wheat.

SOME SCHOOLS TO RESUME CLASSES 27 OCTOBER

PA270609 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Oct 82

[Text] The Information Department of Radio Quito and Cadena Ecuador Radio have received an official bulletin released by the government.

It says: The national government, through the Ministry of Education and Culture, wishes the announce the resumption of classes at all educational levels throughout the national territory as of tomorrow, Wednesday, 27 October. The announcement explained that the measure excludes the capital of the country, which is still affected by transportation problems. It added, however, that any grade schools in Quito that may have solved this problem will also resume classes.

CONGRESS APPROVES INCREASE IN MINIMUM WAGE

PA272246 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 1235 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Text] The country has apparently overcome the dangers of a coup once again, since the plenary meeting of the National Congress legislative commissions definitely approved the increase in the minimum wage and other compensations, while the president and the Court of Constitutional Guarantees worked on other measures aimed at reducing social tensions.

The plenary meeting of legislative commissions approved an increase of 4,000 to 4,600 sucres per month in the minimum wage for all Ecuadorean workers. In addition, it also approved a wage increase of up to 800 sucres for workers earning up to 9,200 sucres a month. Simultaneously, it approved the rounding off to 10,000 sucres a month of the salaries of those who have been earning between 9,200 and 10,000 sucres.

Meanwhile, the so-called multiparty congressional commission, which is in charge of congressional efforts to deal with the economic problems, discarded the possibility of convoking a special congressional session, as proposed by Deputy Jaime Hurtado of the Popular Democratic Movement. A delegation of the Court of Constitutional Guarantees met on Tuesday night with the president of the republic to analyze the possibility of lifting the state of emergency, which was requested by Bolivar Bolanos, representing the Ecuadorean workers.

It was also learned that the government has reportedly been analyzing several alternatives to lessen the effects of the increase in the price of gasoline on lower income families. Gustavo Galindo, minister of natural resources and energy, will reportedly announce these alternatives on Wednesday night, when he will speak over radio and television.

Meanwhile, negotiations continue with transport workers to decide on new tariffs for passenger and cargo ground transportation. If an agreement is reached in these talks, transportation service would be resumed throughout the country. So even though these measures are not the answer to the people's demand for official decisions to prevent them from carrying the full load of the economic crisis, it is evident that they will be a palliative that could reduce tensions.

Within this totally new framework, the national convention of the United Workers Front will meet Wednesday afternoon to analyze the possibility of holding new protest actions against the government economic policy. So if tensions are really decreasing, it can well be said that the country's political rightwing has again lost the possibility of taking advantage of the people's unrest during times of crisis. This defeat will not be definite, however, as long as the crisis lives on and continues to affect the low income sectors.

POLICE DISPERSE CROWD AFTER MEMORIAL SERVICE

PA270615 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Oct 82

[Excerpt] Following a mass at the (San Blas) church in tribute to tose killed during the nationwide strike called by the FUT [United Workers Front] on Thursday, 21 October, the workers and their supporters held a public march to the San Francisco Plaza, but were dispersed with tear gas by the public force before reaching their objective.

BELAUNDE CONSIDERING CHANGING PLAN TO VISIT U.S.

PY271622 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1115 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Text] Lima, 27 Oct (LATIN-REUTER) -- President Fernando Belaunde Terry is seriously considering the possibility of cancelling his official visit to Washington, which is scheduled for next month, as a result of the tense situation in Peruvian-U.S. relations, official sources have stated.

The 70-year old president was due to leave for Washington on 8 November and to meet with President Ronald Reagan on the following day.

The Peruvian president's trip reportedly included a visit to the United Nations in New York and a meeting with Peruvian Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general.

Spokesmen for the presidency and for the U.S. Embassy have stated that the plans for the visit have not been altered. However, official sources have stated that President Belaunde is seriously considering the possibility of postponing or cancelling his trip. According to these sources, some of President Belaunde's advisers believe that Belaunde's visit would be untimely in view of the large number of factors that are affecting bilateral relations, such as Washington's restrictions on Peruvian textile imports, a proposed [passage indistinct].

The sources indicated that another of these factors is the announcement made by the White House on Monday that President Reagan will visit Brazil, Colombia and Costa Rica at the beginning of December.

Some Peruvian officials have taken Reagan's itinerary as a snub to Belaunde Terry's 2-year long democratic administration, which has made attempts to establish a special type of relations with the United States.

Manuel Dornellas, a progovernment columnist, stated the following regarding Peru's exclusion from Reagan's first Latin American tour: Reagan's persistence in excluding Peru from his tour would be a clear snub to Belaunde and to all the Peruvian people.

Dornellas continued by saying that the Peruvian Foreign Ministry and the Peruvian Embassy in Washington have concentrated their efforts in trying to prevent Brazil from becoming a key country in the region for the U.S. Department of State.

The sources noted that some officials of the Peruvian Foreign Ministry and some Peruvian diplomats in Washington are making (?an analysis) of the status of relations so that Belaunde can make a final decision regarding his visit.

The possible postponenment or cancellation of Belaunde's visit could cause bilateral relations to deteriorate to the low level they were at the time of the Anglo-Argentine war over the Malvinas Islands 6 months ago.

Decision Within 48 Hours

PA271758 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Excerpt] Peruvian Foreign Minister Javier Arias Stella has said in Lima that President Fernando Belaunde Terry's planned visit to Washington next month is under study and that the president will be making a decision in this regard within the next 48 hours.

AMADO ON AREA FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

PA270537 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Oct 82

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado has told Televisora Nacional reporter Ivan Zufita that a Latin American foreign ministers meeting in preparations for a meeting of chiefs of state will not take place this year. The following is his statement to reporter Ivan Zurita.

[Begin recording] [Question] International news reports say that Panama has declined to host a meeting of Latin American foreign ministers. What is the reason for this last-minute decision by Panama?

[Answer] Panama has not declined to host any possible meeting here of foreign ministers. The issue was first discussed during a visit by former President Royo to Venezuela in a meeting with President Luis Herrera Campins. At the time it was considered appropriate to hold a Latin American foreign ministers meeting to review, among other things, activities related to the celebration of the bicentennial of the birth of liberator Simon Bolivar, and at the same time to make the initial preparations for a possible meeting of Latin American chiefs of state.

This topic has been the cause of concern and consultations at the Foreign Ministry, and we have the impression that the consultations might be concluded during the OAS working sessions. These consultations are important, since they will produce the draft of the agenda for the foreign ministers meeting and the subsequent meeting of chiefs of state.

Neither issue has yet been settled due to the difficulties often posed by such consultations, and also in the hope that the consultations could be concluded in Washington. We trust, however, that the next OAS meeting will determine whether the foreign ministers should meet or if only the chiefs of state meeting is to be held. I want to reiterate, however, that Panama has at no time declined to host such a meeting.

[Question] If there is a foreign ministers meeting, when will it take place approximately?

[Answer] That will depend on the consultations carried out in Washington. Due to previous commitments the foreign ministers may have, it is unlikely that the meeting could be held before January 1983.

[Question] International reports also refer to a possible visit to Latin America by U.S. President Ronald Reagan and include Panama as one stopover of such a visit. Could you make an official statement on that?

[Answer] There is absolutely nothing concrete at this time. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Communique

PA271515 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 27 Oct 82 pp 1, 8

[Excerpts] In a communique issued on 26 October, Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado stated that Panama does not believe that a meeting of foreign ministers of countries of America, members of the OAS, immediately before or after the 12th OAS General Assembly to be held in Washington 15-20 November 1982, would be feasible or advisable, because it would be innocuous.

Foreign Ministry Communique

The idea of holding a summit meeting of chiefs of state of the continent, which was spectacularly launched by Colombian President Belisario Betancur in his 7 August 1982 inaugural speech, is a Colombian initiative which is being followed with great interest by all the countries of the region but whose organization is the full responsibility of the Colombian Government. Because it would be an inter-American summit, it would be held within the framework of the OAS, a regional organization whose members by right include the United States and the Latin American countries with the exception of Belize, Cuba and Guyana, which are not members of the regional organization.

Panama maintains its unwavering position of offering to be site of a meeting of Latin American foreign ministers which would be the result of appropriate consultations with the Latin American governments without exception, in order to decide on the participation, date and agenda of the meeting which was originally conceived in relation to the bicentennial of the birth of the liberator on 24 July 1983.

Panama does not believe that a meeting of foreign ministers of countries of America, members of the OAS, immediately before or after the 12th OAS General Assembly that will be held in Washington on 15-20 November 1982 would be feasible or advisable, because it would be innocuous.

The success or failure of the inter-American summit meeting being planned for Cartagena is not in any way related to the holding of an inter-American conference of foreign ministers in Panama, which evidently would not be justified in view of the imminence of the 12th OAS General Assembly, which will provide the opportunity to discuss at the foreign minister level the subjects that are of common interest to the countries of the area.

In accordance with the tradition of the Amphictyonic Congress, Panama will always be a forum for the unity and integration of Latin America.

[Dated] Panama, 26 October 1982

[Signed] Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado, III

PRESIDENT TO MEET WITH ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES

PA280236 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 27 Oct 82 p 32

[Text] In response to requests made by the representatives of the different corregimientos of the country, President Ricardo de la Espriella will hold a series of meetings with members of the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives beginning today, Wednesday, in the auditorium of the presidential palace. Today's meeting will begin at 1000 hours.

The first of these meetings will be with representatives from the province of Panama, and the president will be accompanied by National Guard Commander Gen Ruben D. Paredes and five cabinet members: the ministers of public works, agricultural development, planning and economic policy, government and justice, and the presidency.

Meetings with the representatives from the other provinces and San Blas Intendancy will be held in the near future.

PRD SAID TO BE PRESSURING SOCIAL SECURITY CASE

PA251611 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Oct 82 p 1A

[By Migdalia Fuentes and Emerson Moreno]

[Text] While Attorney General Rafael Rodriguez and Prosecutor Carlos Cuestas remain silent about the person or persons who have been threatening them with slander, and even death, a source linked to the public prosecutor's office and the judicial branch said that these threats come from the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), which is the "only one that stands to benefit" from the release and possible acquittal of those who are implicated in the Social Security Fund scandal.

"If Prosecutor Cuestas has denied that the National Guard staff has put pressure on the officials to obtain the release of those implicated -- Abraham Saied, Ricardo Fabrega, Agustin Diaz Cogley, Martin Burgos and recently Melania Corro de Perez -- and this has been stressed by Attorney General Rodriguez, then are the people so blind that they don't see that for some time now the PRD and its leaders are the only ones who have been pressuring the authorities to close the investigations?" asked the source, who for obvious reasons wants to remain unidentified.

"The PRD leadership, which is still embedded in the current regime and has influence among government officials at all levels, wants to have the case closed. It will not stop until it has Attorney General Rodriguez and Prosecutor Cuestas removed, in order to save people who, in one way or another, are friends or relatives of the party leaders from having to face justice," the source said.

The investigation of the Social Security Fund took a new turn at the end of week when Second Circuit Court Judge Manuel Batista ordered the release on bail of Melania Corro de Perez. According to lawyers familiar with penal procedures, this action violated Article 1039 of the judicial code. The speed with which Melania Corro de Perez was released -- only a few hours after Prosecutor Cuestas ordered her arrest -- surprised a large sector of the community that has been following the investigation closely. The bail set for the release of Abraham Saied, former director of the Social Security Fund, was 150,000 balboas. His release is still being questioned by authorities of the public prosecutor's office. It is surprising that while Saied's bail was 150,000 balboas, Mrs Perez' bail was set at only 5,000 balboas, through a rapid order by a circuit judge that contradicted the order issued by Carlos Cuestas, the prosecutor appointed by the Attorney General's Office.

The National Bar Association is expected to issue a statement today to dispel the doubts that have arisen over the way in which the investigation is being carried out.

In a recent interview, Carlos Cuestas said that the Government and Justice Ministry should answer questions concerning those arrested in the Social Security Fund case. He described them as Panamanians "who have more rights than other Panamanians" because, he said, they are under arrest in "air-conditioned jails."

For his part, the government minister said that an investigation of the status of those who were arrested in the Social Security Fund case does not fall under his purview. He said that this is up to the Department of Correction. The Department of Correction has always been an agency with the Government and Justice Ministry.

PRD Denies Interference

PA272335 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 25 Oct 82 p 20

[Dr Secundino Torres Gudino column: "Corporations and Those Involved in the Democratic Opposition"]

[Text] It has been the opposition's traditional practice to accuse the Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, of being behind everything bad that happens, even in matters with which it has nothing to do, including matters in which the party's interests are similar to those of the opposition.

Such unfounded accusations against the PRD are obvious in relation to the investigation of wrongdoings in the Social Security Fund. It has been said that the PRD is the only one that gained by the release of those accused of wrongdoings. It has been said that "the PRD leadership, which is still embedded in the current regime and has influence among government officials at all levels, wants to have the case closed. It will not stop until it has Attorney General Rodriguez and Prosecutor Cuestas Removed." (LA PRENSA, front page, Monday, 25 October 1982).

All these accusations have no purpose other than to confuse the investigation and hurt the PRD's prestige. A primary argument in defense of the PRD is that the lawyers in charge of defending those accused of wrongdoing in the Social Security Fund are members of the opposition parties, who have never shown any sympathy for or supported the current revolutionary process. On the contrary, some of the lawyers of those accused of wrongdoing in the Social Security Fund are staunch adversaries and enemies of the PRD. Therefore, how can the PRD influence a legal case in which none of the lawyers for the defense is a member of the party?

Aware of its historical role, the PRD is interested that the case be cleared up. Since the PRD is the largest party in the country, one must realize that there are thousands of party members who have had nothing to do with the economic big deals of the Social Security Fund. On the other hand, many members of the opposition and other persons have received favors from the regime and have relations with the big economic firms involved in wrongdoing in the Social Security Fund.

The PRD has no interest in trying to influence the officials in charge of the investigation. The investigation is still in its initial stage. It still has to determine who is guilty of misusing funds. The PRD has not interfered with the investigation. Why should the PRD try to confuse the investigation, when what it wants is for those who have taken advantage of the party's power and of their membership to get rich illegally be given exemplary punishment.

In fact, the forces most interested in trying to confuse the investigation are the members of the opposition, who have interests and members in the firms involved in misappropriating the social security funds.

PRD Denies Pressuring Officials

PA280222 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 27 Oct 82 p 7

[Paid advertisement by the Democratic Revolutionary Party's National Executive Council, dated 26 October]

[Text] New Plot Against Freedom of Expression

Disregarding legal stipulations and the government's wise calls to respect the people, institutions and political organizations, the newspaper LA PRENSA in its 25 October edition has again confirmed its practice of spreading misinformation and twisting facts. Resorting to the old trick of "sources close to," etcetera, the newspaper persists in its attempt to confuse the people by making it appear as if the Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, is threatening judicial branch officials in some way.

The Panamanian community, including many PRD members, is aware of this newspaper's disrespect, provocations and disregard for the people's opinion. We also understand that this is due to the desperation of the paper's political advisers, who as in this case, lack any credibility. However, all Panamanians feel it is inadmissible for the appropriate officials to continue allowing this kind of slander, which only pollutes the air of coexistence and stability that all Panamanians breathe.

We believe, along with the community, that it is high time that a stop be put to such irresponsibility, lying and misinformation. As for the rest, our party has no need to threaten anyone, especially not the judicial branch, because our party has always been the first to give this branch the broadest freedom to act.

Our party, as we have said before, has nothing to hide. We stated during our press conference on 1 September and we reaffirm today our complete confidence in and support for the judicial branch so that the actions of the Social Security Fund or any other institution will be thoroughly cleared up. This is the real position of the PRD, open and without publicity or demagogic tricks.

[Signed] National Executive Committee, Democratic Revolutionary Party

Panama City, 26 October 1982

Palacios on LA PRENSA Distortion

PA270457 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 26 Oct 82 p 4

[Article by Mario Martinez Puente]

[Text] Government and Justice Minister Justo Fidel Palacios told CRITICA yesterday that LA PRENSA is distorting his statements regarding the social security case.

He categorically stated that he has at no time said that this case is the responsibility of the Department of Correction, as reported by LA PRENSA in a front page article yesterday.

Palacios said that the Ministry of Government and Justice is not interfering in this. "We have absolutely nothing to do with this specific case," he said.

The minister said that he was surprised at the way efforts have been made to get him involved in the social security case when those involved in it are still in the hands of the appropriate authorities and have not yet been tried, much less sentenced.

Palacios explained that an individual is officially and formally turned over to the Department of Correction, which is an agency of the Government and Justice Ministry, only after he has been convicted and the sentence has been issued.

As long as this has not been done, the prisoners remain in the preventive custody of the appropriate authorities, and the Government and Justice Ministry has no jurisdiction over the case.

It seems that Carlos Cuestas, the prosecutor, had said that those involved in this social security case -- Abraham Saied, Ricardo Fabrega, Agustin Diaz Cogley, Martin Burgos and Melania Corro de Perez -- were the responsibility of the Government and Justice Ministry.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO YUGOSLAVIA -- Augusto Villarreal will be the new Panamanian ambassador to Yugoslavia, replacing Virgilio Brandford. [Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 23 Oct 82 p A-4 PA]

AMBASSADOR TO CHILE -- Ricardo Moreno will be the new Panamanian ambassador to Chile, replacing Horacio Bustamante, who has returned to Panama. [Panama City LE ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 21 Oct 82 p A-4 PA]

DEPUTY AGRICULTURE MINISTER -- Jorge Canto has been made the new deputy minister of agricultural development. [Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 21 Oct 82 p A-4 PA]

COSTA RICA

GOVERNMENT CONCERNED ABOUT NICARAGUAN RADIOS

PA262208 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Oct 82

[Text] President Luis Alberto Monge's government will exercise its full right of sovereignty over radio broadcasting. Minister of Information [title as heard] Armando Vargas said this to the meeting of inter-American radio broadcasters that ended yesterday in San Jose.

Analyzing the problems faced by Costa Rica and the developing countries due to radio penetration from other countries, he said that efforts must be made to achieve respect for the right of radio broadcasting sovereignty. Minister Vargas said that communities distant from the capital are justly demanding their right to have their own radio broadcasting infrastructure to permit them to participate in the democratic dialogue that is the basis of our way of life.

The country's economic progress makes it advisable to increase the use of frequencies and power in order to more rationally utilize the electromagnetic spectrum, particularly the mediumwave band, Information Minister Armando Vargas added. He said the recent establishment of a revolutionary regime in Nicaragua, which has begun a ambitious radio and television development program, presents an unprecedented challange to Costa Rica in this important field.

The information minister disclosed that in accordance with official information supplied by the International Telecommunications Union, Nicaragua plans to install 67 new mediumwave radio stations by 31 December 1985. If Costa Rica does not rapidly develop its radio broadcasting system in 3 and 1/2 years, Nicaragua will have 105 mediumwave stations with a total installed power of 1,074 kilowatts, while Costa Rica will be at a disadvantage with 52 stations and a total power of 509 kilowatts. He added that Costa Rica is already at a dramatic disadvantage in the area of mediumwave radio broadcasting. He said that Costa Rica is making efforts to expand its coverage and achieve the recovery of radio sovereignty.

EL SALVADOR

NATIONAL FIGURES REACT TO FMLN-FDR PROPOSAL

PA280056 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2106 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Text] San Salvador, 27 Oct (ACAN-EFE) -- Government and military sectors have not responded to the proposal for dialogue presented yesterday by Guillermo Manuel Ungo, president of the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR), and Ana Guadalupe Martinez, guerrilla commander, although legal-political sectors and the church have already reacted, some for and others against.

Arturo Rivera y Damas, apostolic administrator of San Salvador, declared that the Catholic Church has always insisted on searching for a political solution, and that the proposed dialogue between the government and the guerrillas is timely. Rivera y Damas stated that "any initiative for dialogue must find an echo in the church, because Salvadoran problems must be resolved in the most rational and Christian manner."

"After so much suffering by the people, it is well that reconciliation and peace be achieved as soon as possible," the prelate added.

Jose Napoleon Duarte, Christian democratic leader and former president of the government junta, said he was always in favor of dialogue while he was president, but now the situation must be viewed carefully because it could become a lull before violence flares up again.

Duarte said dialogue must incline a commitment by both sides to declare publicly that they oppose violence, regardless of who uses it. Furthermore, the sectors involved must declare that they agree to join the democratic game and were disposed to respect the opinions and positions of various sectors to secure a harmonious pluralism capable of achieving peace in El Salvador.

National Conciliation Party (PCN) deputies stated that it is necessary to seek a peaceful solution to the problems of the country.

The Democratic Action (AD) party came out in favor of a dialogue between the guerrillas and the government, but not the negotiation of power or the negotiation of socioeconomic and military structural aspects.

For his part, Maj Roberto d'Aubuisson, leader of the National Republican Alliance (ARENA) and president of the Constituent Assembly, declared that there can be no dialogue or negotiation "with the criminal groups of the FDR-FMLN."

D'Aubuisson said the idea of dialogue and negotiation is a proposal that is totally against national sovereignty and dignity, which is why the overwhelming majority of the Salvadoran people are opposed to it. He added that the FDR FMLN leaders, on realizing that they cannot attain political power through force of arms, have begun to promote the idea that they are willing to begin a search for a negotiated settlement of the conflict, which "those very same Farabundist minds created."

The Salvadoran private sector also maintains a position against dialogue, much less negotiations, with the armed leftist rebel forces, "because they are trying to obtain at the negotiating table what they were unable to achieve through the armed path."

Meanwhile, the United States has rejected the proposal for dialogue by the Salvadoran opposition and has said that a solution of the conflict will be possible only "if the leftwing opposition joins the process of reconciliation initiated by President Alvaro Magana."

SHOOTOUT REPORTED NEAR U.S. EMBASSY 28 OCTOBER

PA280306 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0247 GMT 28 Oct 82

[Text] San Salvador, 27 Oct (ACAN-EFE) -- A shootout near the U.S. Embassy and the explosion of at least six bombs tonight in downtown sectors of San Salvador resulted in two children wounded and general alarm.

In the San Miguelito district in the northern part of the capital an explosion destroyed a bus parked near a gas station.

In the northwestern part of the city two more bombs destroyed telephone boxes and power lines.

Another bomb exploded at the Salvadoran international fairgrounds, which are usually kept under special watch by the authorities, since the fair will be inaugurated in early November.

SPECIALLY TRAINED BATTALIONS GUARD HIGHWAYS

PA280416 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0001 GMT 28 Oct 82

[Text] San Salvador, 27 Oct (ACAN-EFE) -- The Salvadoran Army has established strategic bases manned by battalions trained in antiguerrilla warfare along the principal highways of the country to step up patrolling and guarantee the free transit of vehicles.

The Armed Forces Press Committee (Coprefa) reported today that members of the "Ramon Belloso," "Atlacatl," "Atonal," "Jaguar," "Sierpe" and other battalions are permanently guarding the coastal and Pan-American highways leading to the eastern part of El Salvador, as well as other highways of strategic importance.

In the past weeks the guerrillas have intensified their actions, warning that they will destroy any vehicle traveling on the highways of the republic. The FMLN's "Radio Venceremos" has reported that more than 50 vehicles have been destroyed as part of the "Heroes and Martyrs of 1979-1980" campaign.

Military patrols and rebel groups often clash on the Salvadoran highways.

UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT SUPPLY GUERRILLAS

PA271520 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 26 Oct 82 p 2

[Text] Unidentified airplanes and helicopters have dropped war supplies to extremist groups operating in different parts of the country, according to the Armed Forces Press Committee (Coprefa).

An unidentified airplane flew east over El Cuco beach and Jucuaran Point last weekend. After several minutes, the airplane disappeared in an unknown direction, Coprefa reported yesterday.

It added that another unidentified airplane flew over the Llano de Los Patos Canton in Conchagua for several minutes. A group of 10 terrorists answered the airplane with light signals. Later, at 0100, a vehicle left the area in the direction of Las Tunas village. It is assumed that this vehicle was used to pick up the war supplies dropped by the airplane.

Some residents saw an unidentified helicopter fly over the beach near Jucuaran in Usulutan Department, from where flares were used as a signal to drop packages containing arms and ammunition, according to Coprefa.

Another airplane, also unidentified, flew over the town of Conchagua in La Union department. From the ground, terrorists signaled to the airplane with flares. The airplane dropped several packages, supposedly arms, ammunition and medicine for the extremists.

RADIO VENCEREMOS ON U.S. DECISION FOR DIALOGUE

PA280157 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 26 Oct 82

[Excerpts] The U.S. Embassy recently issued an official communique reiterating that the Reagan administration will not support a political solution to the Salvadoran conflict based on dialogue.

The statement by Dean Hinton, the imperialist proconsul, was [word indistinct] hailed by the only ones who are interested in prolonging the war -- the ultrarightwing composed of a small group of oligarchs and fascist militarymen.

If they, who in the final analysis are Salvadorans, do not care about prolongation of the war and the consequent death and destruction, why should Reagan care? To him the toll of 35,000 people dead is just a figure, and it is not high enough to please him. How many more burned villages, how many more prisoners and missing politicians, how many more corpses will be required before the fascists, the oligarchs and Reagan are finally satisfied?

At a time when important national and international forces are earnestly asking for a dialogue, the military high command has ordered the capture of five leaders of the Revolutionary Democratic front and, coinciding with this, the U.S. Government has publicly announced its decision to continue supporting the ultraright and its genocidal process.

The Salvadoran people want peace and have repeatedly said so, but they have also repeatedly shown their courage and [word indistinct] heroism in the fight for their democratic rights. They have reiterated their determination to win. Prolongation of the war will cost much more destruction and many more lives, but it will never, never mean defeat for this people. History, which is implacable, will know how to settle accounts with those who are now guilty of genocide.

GUATEMALA

CONTACTS REPORTED WITH UK ON BELIZE ISSUE

PA270544 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 20 Oct 82 p 4

[Text] The Guatemalan Government has renewed contacts with British Government representatives to formalize in the near future the talks concerning the problem of Belize, according to a news statement yesterday by Foreign Minister Eduardo Castillo Arriola.

The foreign minister said that since the UN General Assembly in New York was attended by officials of the Guatemalan and British Governments, they took the opportunity to exchange impressions concerning the border problem that dates back over 150 years.

He added that the informal talks were conducted harmoniously, and that both parties showed an interest in finding a solution to the conflict within the framework of new bases of understanding, since those agreed upon during the past government are no longer valid.

Castillo Arriola noted that the talks were attended by members of the government of George Price. An agreement was reached for consultations at the Foreign ministry level to start a new round of negotiations in the near future.

RIOS MONTT HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE 26 OCTOBER

PA271625 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 26 Oct 82

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] Last week we learned that three people who appeared before the special courts could be executed for their involvement in many crimes related to subversive activities. Guatemalan President Gen Efrain Rios Montt was asked today about the status of their execution. His statement is as follows:

"The Human Rights Commission has objected to the lack of evidence regarding the execution. Therefore, we are undertaking a series of studies to attain more evidence so that we may carry out this action without problems. This is why we have suspended the execution. We do have to pass sentence, but we are giving them more time so that they may present further evidence.

The president was also asked about the capture of some guerrilla commanders:

"We have killed many guerrilla commanders. I have no information on the wounded but I will find out. When I find out I will let you know."

Regarding subversion in the country, General Rios Montt said that it has decreased by approximately 80 percent:

"[Rios Montt] From the military viewpoint, yes.

"[Question] What is the percentage, roughly?

"[Answer] In the last 2 weeks it has decreased by approximately 80 percent from the military point of view. There is still 20 percent, amounting to sporadic actions."

As for the nation's economy, the president of the republic admitted that the national financial corporation, Corfina, is being restructured because it is facing serious economic problems.

"[Rios Montt] Corfina is bankrupt.

"[Question] Will Corfina disappear or will it be reorganized?

"[Answer] It has to be reorganized, because a new program has to be set up. Its capital must be increased."

In response to rumors being spead by concerned people, the head of state said the nation's currency will not be devalued:

"The quetzal will not be devalued. Some people are paying 30 or 50 cents more for it, but that is a personal matter. Officially the quetzal will not be devalued."

General Rios Montt announced the objectives of a decree authorizing the issuance of state bonds for more than 1 billion quetzals:

"The debt has been accumulating since 1969. This is the public debt. What we are going to do is consolidate it and divide it in such a way that we will be able to pay it off in 15 years without acquiring more debt."

Concerning the income and expenditure budget for 1983, General Rios Montt announced that there will be a 30 percent reduction, compared to last year's budget:

"[Rios Montt, in progress] ...quite large. We have no definite figures right now, but the reduction will be quite large. [words indistinct] initially, and it has been dropped even more, as we have tried to avoid unnecessary expenses.

"[Question] What would be the percentage [words indistinct]?

"[Answer] Oh, no. Perhaps less, but it could be around 30 percent, compared to last year."

President Rios today said there are hopes for stabilizing the Guatemalan economy by next year:

"[Rios Montt] Our problems are related to water, land and circumstances. Above all, since we are a very small country, and as our economy is based on agriculture, with very little industry, it all depends upon our competitors. As you are perfectly aware, Caribbean countries have the same products and this makes it difficult to get a (?share) in the market. However, we are struggling to obtain new markets, and if we manage to keep going we will be able to achieve relative stability next year."

Finally, Rios Montt admitted the possibility of extending the state of siege, which is about to expire:

"[Rios Montt] Yes, it is possible that this will be done.

"[Question] When will this subject be discussed?

"[Answer] At the next Cabinet meeting."

RIOS MONTT CRITICIZES AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

PA280231 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Oct 82

[Text] The Guatemalan president has said that Guatemala could not buy friends in Amnesty International, as this would mean selling and changing our ideals.

After meeting yesterday with the defense minister and the army chief of staff for over 2 hours, Gen Efrain Rios Montt said the meeting had been called to discuss various topics, especially the international campaign against Guatemala.

The president said that Guatemala neither has funds to pay international news agencies, nor could it buy friends in Amnesty International, as this would mean selling and changing our ideals.

Rios Montt added that in view of the situation a series of recordings are being made on past and present events in Guatemala in order to send cassettes to the different embassies. He said that after receiving copies of films on the current Guatemalan situation, the embassies might decide to be of help by holding news conferences to report on the country's real situation and the government's work.

In another part of his statement, when asked to give his opinion about Amnesty International, President Rios Montt said this organization has been accomplishing its goal, that is, destroying the solidarity of peoples instead of consolidating it. It is making use of its budget to finance the spreading of a great deal of information. In addition, he added, it cares only about its own interests and not about the interests of nations.

GOVERNMENT TO APPOINT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

PA272328 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Text] The Guatemalan Government today announced that it has established a human rights commission in charge of seeing that human rights are respected according to international agreements signed by Guatemala.

The decree, signed by President Efrain Rios Montt and his ministers, bases the establishment of the human rights commission on the fact that Guatemala ratified the American Convention on Human Rights signed in San Jose, Costa Rica, in November 1979, and also on the fact that the basic laws of the Guatemalan military government set forth the mechanisms necessary to see that human rights are respected in the country.

The commission is formed of five members of the central government, one from the national university, one from a private university, one from private enterprise, one from the trade unions, one from the news media and five from the largest ethnic groups of the country.

The members of the commission should be appointed in the next 15 days.

Some years ago, during the administration of former President Romeo Lucas, there was an unofficial human rights commission formed by representatives of various sectors. It was presided over by newswoman (Irma Flager), who was kidnapped by a group of armed men who killed her son. She was never seen again.

CABINET MEETS, EXTENDS STATE OF SIEGE

PA280203 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0130 GMT 28 Oct 82

[Text] The Cabinet meeting presided over by President Efrain Rios Montt ended a few minutes ago. One of the resolutions approved during the meeting was the extension for another month, through November, of the state of siege that has been in effect since 1 July.

POLICE, TRANSPORT OFFICIAL SHOT 26 OCTOBER

PA271720 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1542 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 27 Oct (ACAN-EFE) -- Abelino Davila Sipac, chief of the tribunals auxiliary section of the Police Technical Investigations Department, DIT, and his driver were shot last night in zone 5, in the southern part of the capital. Official sources said today that the two men were travelling in a vehicle owned by the police chief when they were machinegunned from another car.

The police also reported that Edwin Corado, deputy chief of Guatemala City's municipal transportation, was shot to death in the downtown area by three persons who immediately fled the scene.

HONDURAS

COMMUNIQUE ON REINFORCEMENT OF SALVADORAN BORDER

PA270452 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 2050 GMT 26 Oct 82

[Communique released by the Directorate of International Information of the Government of the Republic of Honduras, distributed by Inter-Central American Radio Organization, no date given]

[Text] Regarding charges made by Salvadoran rebels and carried by a news agency accusing Honduras of mobilizing forces in preparation for an antiguerrilla offensive together with the Salvadoran Army, the Directorate of International Information of the government of the republic declares that Honduras once more reiterates its peaceful position against intervention.

The Honduran foreign policy concerning the violence affecting Central America is to scrupulously respect the principle of nonintervention in the affairs of other states. Therefore, it is absolutely false that the Honduran Army has initiated or intends to initiate joint actions with the Salvadoran Army against the subversive groups active in that country.

The military mobilization toward the border areas with El Salvador is being conducted for the sole purpose of defending the nation's sovereignty and preventing Honduran territory from being used by the Salvadoran guerrilla forces, which affects the neutrality Honduras is determined to maintain.

The presence of Honduran troops in the border area also responds to the need to protect the lives and property of Honduran residents in the area, as established by the constitution of the republic.

Honduras regrets the bloodshed among brothers, but it will not allow itself to become involved in somebody else's struggles. The country respects the right of self-determination of peoples, as it is up to them to decide their own destiny.

Honduras reiterates that its foreign policy is directed toward the establishment of peace in Central America, according to the rules of international law included in the UN and OAS Charters.

PAZ BARNICA LEAVES FOR EL SALVADOR 27 OCTOBER

PA271811 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 27 Oct (ACAN-EFE) -- It was officially reported here that Honduran Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barnica left today for San Salvador.

No details were given about the foreign minister's unexpected trip. It was reported, however, that he will return to Tegucigalpa this afternoon.

Local observers believe the minister's trip might be connected to laying the groundwork for a meeting of Central American foreign ministers, which is to be followed by a meeting of area presidents.

The Honduran Foreign Ministry said the summit meeting would be aimed at "reaching serious agreements to strengthen regional peace and security."

NICARAGUA

TINOCO STRESSES NEED FOR PEACE DIALOGUE

PA271500 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Article by (Abraham Quijano Macanche): "There Is an Urgent Need To Reactivate the Peace Proposals in the Face of New Aggressions"]

[Text] Acting Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco has charged that, in the next few weeks, Nicaragua will suffer an increase in armed aggression from Honduras through air and sea attacks. He made this statement in a meeting with the diplomatic corps in Managua on Monday to whom he presented the book "Nicaragua Denounces."

Tinoco announced that the Nicaraguan Government is expecting an attempt will be made to repeat the so-called Seven Benk plan, which was launched by former Somozist guardsmen in July and in which 200 men were introduced in the area by air and sea in order to divert the Sandinist Peoples Army from efforts in other regions of the country.

Tinoco warned about the reality of the aggressions, threats and specific actions that are carried out against Nicaragua on a daily basis. He noted that the reality of an increase in counterrevolutionary activities against our country in the next few months is cold and evident.

He mentioned that the instructions for plans on the introduction of counterrevolutionary units inside the country and near the border region are also real.

He maintained that although Nicaragua's recent selection as a temporary member of the UN Security Council is a favorable step toward peace, detente and understanding, the plan of aggression against our country will continue and the incidents of the next few weeks will confirm these remarks.

He stressed that the recent Forum for Peace held in San Jose, Costa Rica, does not contribute to peace in the region. On the contrary, he said, it was a political platform against Nicaragua intended to isolate the Sandinist people's revolution.

In another part of his statement to the honorable diplomatic corps in Managua, Tinoco advocated the need to work in realistic and concrete terms to reactivate the initiative for a dialogue proposed by Mexico and Venezuela almost a month ago. He noted that we must work for peace in specific terms because the activity of the counterrevolutionary bands threatens to increase in a worrisome way.

WHEELOCK ANNOUNCES STANDARD FRUIT WITHDRAWAL

PA271438 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Text] The Standard Fruit Company, the U.S. transnational in charge of marketing Nicaragua's banana production, decided to temporarily stop operations in our country yesterday. It claims it has difficulties in placing the product in the international market.

This announcement was made by Agricultural Development Minister Commander Jaime Wheelock Roman, who described the way in which the Standard Fruit Company is withdrawing from the country as unbelievable, irregular and illegal.

Wheelock Roman noted that this company's withdrawal from Nicaragua will result in losses estimated at $400,000 per week with the suspension of banana marketing. Banana production amounts to 7 million boxes which represent $24 million per year.

The minister added that Standard Fruit's decision has a certain irregularity and immaturity, and he noted that there are no social, economic or political motives for this because the Nicaraguan Government, after signing the agreement, has carefully and calmly complied with the banana agreement.

Wheelock Roman added that there is economic uncertainty regarding the banana program because the only market it had was the United States. Therefore, Nicaragua never sought other markets, as the agreement provided for the marketing of this fruit for a period of 5 years.

Claims Government To Sue

PA271827 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock, minister of agricultural development and agrarian reform, has announced the suspension of operations by the Standard Fruit and Steamship Company, which manages the banana program in western Nicaragua. The revolutionary government is suing the Standard Fruit and Steamship Company for its decision to suspend operations in Nicaragua, Wheelock noted.

The minister said that by this decision the company is breaching the contract it signed with the revolutionary state, in accordance with which Nicaragua became the owner of the company's assets and Standard Fruit committed itself to market the fruit for 5 years. Wheelock described this decision as unbelievable and informal, as well as illegal, because there was no reason to do this overnight, without consulting the revolutionary government.

The enterprise has been kept running so far and two alternatives are being studied: to completely change the banana program or to maintain the program while opening it up to other international markets, Wheelock said.

He added that the U.S. company's decision causes a Nicaraguan loss of approximately $400,000 per week. It affects Nicaragua's economy because we export 6 million [as heard] boxes, which represent $24 million per year.

The revolutionary government will meet with the banana workers and the private partners to study the case.

FURTHER ON ANGOLA'S LUCIO LARA PRESS CONFERENCE

FL261450 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 26 Oct 82

[Excerpts] Lucio Lara, member of the MPLA Labor Party Politburo of the fraternal People's Republic of Angola, has held a press conference with foreign and Cuban journalists at the Cubanacan Protocol Hall.

On his views of African issues, he said that Washington and Pretoria are attempting to link the withdrawal of the racists and the decolonization of Namibia to Cuban-Angolan internationalist assistance. He noted that, as the governments of Cuba and Angola had freely decided and announced in their February joint communique, the Cuban combatants will be withdrawn when asked to do so by the Angolan Government, when the threat of aggression against Angola no longer exists and when Namibia becomes free.

[Begin Lara recording] We can state that this position of the Cuban Government and the Angolan Government has the support today of almost the entire world. Up to the present, no country in the United Nations has declared itself against this position. All of the African countries have declared themselves in favor of the Angolan and Cuban position.

In other words, the position is not to establish any -- they have not been able to establish any -- relationship between the presence of Cuban troops in Angola and Namibia's independence, because we are dealing with two different things. As a matter of fact, as we were able to see recently there is no consensus between the contact group made up by France, Germany, Canada, England and the United States and the United States itself on this point.

French Foreign Minister Cheysson said this openly when he finally stated a clear and unmistakable position of what is right and just, which is to say, a demonstration to the world that only the United States is contemplating blackmail by establishing a link between the Cuban presence in Angola and Namibian independence, a different matter altogether (?mandated) by UN resolution 435 of 1978. [end recording]

Cubans Won't Be Replaced

EA261456 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1300 GMT 26 Oct 82

[Text] Lucio Lara, organizing secretary of the Angolan MPLA Labor party, has dismissed reports that French troops are to replace Cuban troops in Angolan territory. Lucio Lara said at a press conference in Havana yesterday that this kind of report is completely ludicrous.

He once again reaffirmed that there could be no link between the presence of Cuban troops in Angola and the process of Namibian independence, although South Africa and the United States are trying to connect the two questions.

U.S., SOUTH AFRICA SCORED ON NAMIBIA ISSUE

FL280041 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Oct 82

[Text] South Africa and the United States are trying to introduce foreign elements into the negotiations to hamper Namibia's independence, Cuban Ambassador Raul Roa Kouri charged today at the United Nations. The Cuban representative delivered a vibrant speech on the Day of Solidarity With the Namibian people, in which he said that South Africa and the United States are attempting to condition Namibia's independence to the withdrawal of Cuban troops, which remain in Angola at the request of its government.

Raul Roa Kouri stressed the right of the South West African People's Organization to continue the armed struggle until freedom is attained, and indicated that so long as that territory continues to be illegally occupied by South Africa, the administrative authority falls to the UN Council for Namibia.

Finally, he reiterated the irreversible solidarity of the Nonaligned Movement with the heroic struggle of the Namibian people.

U.S.-PRC 'PLOT' IN LAOS DESTINED TO FAIL

PA280111 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Oct 82

["World Events" commentary]

[Text] The U.S. imperialists and their Chinese allies never cease to plot destabilizing maneuvers in an attempt to try and stop the revolutionary processes that are under way in Indochina. Now they are planning a new conspiracy against Laos through the creation of a phantom government-in-exile, for which they will try to gain international recognition. In this endeavor they have the support of Thailand and other Southeast Asian countries.

Just as they have done with the puppet Norodom Sihanouk, whom they are trying to present to the world as the main leader of a nonexistent Kampuchean coalition government, the Chinese hegemonists are trying to form a Laotian reconstruction government made up of the puppets Phoumi Nosavan, Vang Pao and Kong Le.

After unsuccessfully trying to defeat the legitimate governments of Vietnam, Laos and Democratic Kampuchea by force, the U.S. imperialists and the new Beijing mandarins are now resorting to worn-out political tricks, with which they expect to confuse the people.

Meanwhile, they discuss actions to carry out new aggression against the Indochinese countries. At the end of 1980, Laotian exiles, Vietnamese emigrants and Pol Pot's representatives met in Thai zones bordering with Laos to coordinate plans for joint attack against those three sovereign states.

In like fashion, similar meetings were held in New York and Washington around the middle of 1981. These meetings were held in an effort to unite the different counterrevolutionary groups from each Indochinese country and work out a common strategy. Subsequently, the leaders of the different factions were received by U.S. Government representatives.

According to the magazine FAR EAST ECONOMIC REVIEW, published in Hong Kong, on the Sino-Lao-Thai border there are half a dozen training camps where several thousand Laotian counterrevolutionaries are getting ready to launch an invasion of Laos. China's material and political support for the Laotian exile groups is no different from the help given to Kampuchean factions led by Pol Pot and Norodom Sihanouk, because they are part of the same destabilizing strategy used against the peoples of the Indochinese Peninsula. The abortive invasion attempt by China on Vietnam in 1979, the deployment of more than 500,000 soldiers along the border with Laos and Vietnam, the intense radio campaign against the three countries that originates in China and the constant political and diplomatic pressure used to try and make them abandon their revolutionary endeavors are part of this Beijing policy.

China refuses to sign a peace treaty with the Indochinese countries and resume talks with the Hanoi Government aimed at achieving a peaceful solution in Southeast Asia. China has even tried to prevent any kind of aid to Vietnam. However, China has not gained anything with these methods, except for reconfirming the decision of these countries to resist blackmail and aggression. This is why the conspiracy against Laos is equally destined to failure.

The imperialist maneuvers, the Beijing leaders and the international reactionaries will crash against the wall of the Indochinese countries' decision to fight and the solidarity of the revolutionary and progressive forces of the world.

VENEZUELA DENIES ATTEMPTS TO BAR CARICOM FROM OAS

FL222220 Bridgetown CANA in English 2147 GMT 22 Oct 82

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Oct 22, CANA -- Venezuela has strongly denied local reports it is advocating the exclusion of the English-speaking Caribbean from the Organisation of American States (OAS).

"Our very good and ever increasing relations with Caricom (Caribbean Community) countries is the best refutation of a misleading and inaccurate report," said the Venezuelan Embassy here in a press release.

It was referring to a GUYANA NEWS AGENCY (GNA) and CHRONICLE newspaper story on Wednesday which said that "some (OAS) members, including Venezuela, are advocating the break-up of the present organisation and the formation of an entirely new Spanish-speaking body."

The article, headlined "Latin America Proposes Spanish-Speaking OAS," said that the future of the OAS seemed to be uncertain.

It said the pressure for restructuring stems from this year's Anglo-Argentinian war over the Falkland Islands and "the hostility of certain Latin American countries to the growing voting power of the small, newer English-speaking countries."

The state-run GNA report said that while Brazil was not expected to join Venezuela and other members in advocating an entirely new Spanish-speaking body, "Brazilian diplomats have been feeling out other Latin American states on a plan to move the headquarters of the OAS from Washington to Brasilia and the headquarters of the Inter-American Development Bank from Washington to Caracas."

"The OAS has nine English-speaking Caribbean members and 18 Latin American members who are of the opinion that an increase in the membership of the English-speaking countries will dilute their voting power and influence," said the GNA.

The agency said Canada and the Caribbean members, with the exception of Grenada had "invoked the wrath of the Latin American membership of the OAS by supporting the British stand over the Falkland Islands crisis."

BRIEFS

BRITISH COMMISSIONER -- Kingstown, St Vincent, Oct 27, CANA -- The new Barbados-based British high commissioner to the Eastern Caribbean, Lord Dunrossil, is paying his first visit to St Vincent and the Grenadines since taking up his appointment four months ago. Lord Dunrossil today presented his letter of introduction to Prime Minister Milton Cato and met the country's cabinet for informal discussions. [Excerpt] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1758 GMT 27 Oct 82 FL]

INDONESIAN MISSION -- Bridgetown, Barbados, Oct 27, CANA -- A small Indonesia Government mission seeking inspiration from the Caribbean to help the Far East country reach a foreign investment target of 1.5 to 1.6 billion dollars (U.S.) a year was leaving here today for Trinidad and Tobago. The six-man team, headed by Mohammad Anwar Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the investment coordinating board, had discussions with the Barbados Government's Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and its Export Promotion Agency (EPC). Trinidad and Tobago is the last leg of the missions's Caribbean tour. [Excerpt] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1725 GMT 27 Oct 82 FL]

JAMAICA

STRIKE DIVERTS SHIPS; SOLDIERS MANNING DOCKS

FL261730 Bridgetown CANA in English 1620 GMT 26 Oct 82

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Oct 26, CANA -- Jamaica's Labour Ministry officials were today still trying to find a formula to end a six-day old dockers' strike that has caused some ships to be diverted from the island, shipping officials said.

Meantime, soldiers were manning the wharves, having yesterday fanned out to all areas of the Kingston dock.

Stevedores, longshoremen and clerks started their strike last Thursday, claiming that a recent pay agreement between the Port Supervisory Union (PSU) and the three companies created wide anomalies between themselves and the supervisors, breaching an agreement on differentials.

Meetings last week failed to produce a settlement, and renewed conciliatory efforts yesterday by the Labour Ministry made no headway. The three unions representing the strikers reportedly told Labour Ministry officials that they would be prepared for talks when the Shipping Association of Jamaica (SAJ) was ready to meet their claims.

The SAJ has said that the companies could not afford the union demands.

Shipping sources said that the Labour Ministry was trying to maintain contact with both parties, hoping to narrow their positions.

When the strike began soldiers were rushed to the Kingston trans-shipment port to unload vessels there, and yesterday, with the dispute remaining deadlocked, they were also deployed to the two domestic wharves.

Eight ships were being worked up to last night, five of them at the trans-shipment port, but shipping officials said that some trans-shipment vessels bound for Kingston had been diverted by their owners to other foreign ports, such as Puerto Rico.

Earlier this year, Israel's Zim Lines and America's Sealand, which provide the bulk of Kingston's trans-shipment business, threatened to withdraw from Jamaica, blaming unstable industrial climate here.

This new strike is causing worry among shipping officials who fear that Jamaica which has heavily advertised its trans-shipment facilities, will develop a bad reputation and lose its business to Puerto Rico and Miami.

JAGAN URGES GOVERNMENT REMOVAL BY 'FORCE'

FL261901 Bridgetown CANA in English 1817 GMT 26 Oct 82

[By Ken Thomas]

[Text] Toronto, Oct 26, CANA -- Guyana's opposition leader, Dr Cheddi Jagan, says the Forbes Burnham administration in Guyana must be removed from office, by force or violence, if necessary.

In a statement to the WEST INDIES NEWS SERVICE here the general secretary of the Marxist-Peoples Progressive Party (PPP) said the government will not allow itself to be removed by elections". "Mass action of the people" has to remove it.

This Dr Jagan said, can take "various forms", like what occurred in recent years in Dominica and St Lucia, where mass protest forced the government's resignation, or the regime could be forced out by other means.

"If violence is used against the people, then the people sometimes have to resort to revolutionary violence to remove the government," he declared.

Guyanese Dr Jagan said we're united in the effort to "end the current economic and political crisis in the country," but he added: "we are not spelling out what the method of removal should be."

Dr Jagan said all-round preparations must be made to remove the Peoples National Congress (PNC) government, which he accused of committing fraud and violence against the population of Guyana.

He spoke about recent raids conducted by security forces in which many civilians were taken taken into custody on "false" charges.

"This practice goes on continuously-harrassment of opposition officials and activists -- ostensibly on the grounds of looking for weapons," Dr Jagan said.

He felt that as the government of President Burnham became more unpopular, the situation in Guyana would become more and more oppressive and repressive.

The Guyanese politician also spoke about the increasing strength of the army, which he said was being used to "hold down" the masses.

As he put it: "The Burnham government is overplaying the (Guyana) Venezuela border dispute. They are using that to build up the army against the people."

The PPP leader also spoke of what he termed "the great exodus of Guyanese leaving their homeland."

"Because of the economic and other problems (Guyana has acknowledged being bankrupt) many people are leaving Guyana. The average figure for the past two years is about 10,000 a year."

Dr Jagan said some emigrants had taken up illegal immigrant status in Canada and elsewhere in North America, but the great majority had fled to bordering South American countries.

He estimated there were about 50,000 Guyanese now living in Suriname.

Guyana has a population of just over three quarters of a million.

CHILE

EXCELLENT PROSPECTS SEEN FOR TRADE WITH ROMANIA

PY271953 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 27 Oct 82

[Text] The working meetings of the Second Chilean-Romanian Joint Commission ended with excellent prospects of increasing trade. Andres Concha, director general for economic affairs of the Foreign Relations Ministry, summarized the topics discussed by the two delegations during the 3-day meeting: [begin Concha recording] We have been able to analyze the potential which exists to increase trade relations between the two countries. Romania's trade amounts to approximately $20 billion which is quite a significant amount. Within this framework there are obviously great possibilities of placing Chilean products on the Romanian market. Moreover, Romanian technology, especially regarding manufactured goods, has improved greatly during the past few years. Therefore we believe that with greater promotion of their products they will be able to sell many of them on our market. [end recording]

Andres Concha pointed out that there is interest in increasing trade in the maritime and financial sectors. In this regard he stated: I can assert that we have met great receptivity for this purpose.. He also stated that national products could be placed in Eastern countries through Romania. [Begin Concha recording] Romania has strong trade relations with all the countries of the East, of the socialist orbit, and evidently the [name indistinct] which trades products and knows Middle East markets as well as the socialist markets very well. Therefore, we have analyzed the possibilities of placing some Chilean products on other markets through Romania. [end recording]

Andres Concha recalled that Chile maintains an active trade with the GDR at present and pointed out that Chile's foreign policy envisions an economic opening with all the countries of the world. It only requires the respect for the principle of non-intervention and self-determination of the people. Ion Chioveanu, director of the Romanian Foreign Trade Ministry, for his part stated that he is sure the strengthening of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries will take place soon.

PARAGUAY

CONFERENCE OF TRANSPORT MINISTERS ENDS SUCCESSFULLY

PY271517 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 23 Oct 82 p 9

[Excerpts] The 12th Conference of Southern Cone Ministers of Transport and Public Works ended yesterday with the signing of appropriate agreements.

At the closing ceremony, Paraguayan Public Works and Communications Minister Gen Juan Antonio Caceres stated: "A quick evaluation of the work shows that we have achieved highly positive and beneficial results. This again shows the tremendous progress in handling these kinds of events."

In his turn, Peruvian Minister Fernando Chavez Belaunde, stated that "among the achievements of our conference we can mention the exchange of information and experience; the adoption of agreements for the transport of perishable products; tariffs and taxes which affect the international transport on highways; the progress which countries are making on the implementation of the TIR [International Highway Transport Treaty] system. Our task now is to reach an agreement on how to provide an informative guide to transporters for an improved operation on the integration highways."